

REMARKS

The Examiner provides a single rejection that is summarized below:

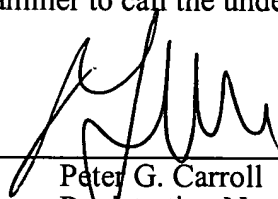
Claims 1, 6, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Burns *et al.* (United States Patent No.: 6,379,929).

The Examiner states that since the '929 patent is "Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The Applicants disagree. The Examiner is relying on Figure 3A - and yet the provisional application (60/031,590) does not contain this figure. Thus, the Examiner cannot use the 1996 date. Since the present case is a divisional of application **08/928,689** filed on **09/26/97**, it was filed prior to the '929 patent (filed on 11/19/97). The Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe that the argument set forth above traverse the Examiner's rejections and, therefore, request that all grounds for rejection be withdrawn for the reasons set above. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at 617.984.0616.

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